Enchanted

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Chapter 1 by Hailey Thomas

Emma always was the odd one out. She had odd friends, had an even odder family, had an odd mind, and had an odd crush. She sat at an odd table, all by herself.

Ugh, that dreadful table.

But that kind of odd was not even close to what she was about to discover.

It was a normal day, as normal as normal could be. The sun was shining, the grass was green, and the smell of summer strawberries was in the air. Emma was heading towards the local library where she worked after school when she stumbled and fell over the sidewalk. She already heard the laughs and giggles, but she knew it wasn't real. It never was. She shook away her hallucination and turned to reach the door.

"Hello, Emma!" greeted the squeaky voice that always did every time she entered.

"Hey Gina," she replied, already setting her backpack down.

"Oohh, what happened to your face?"

beautiful, but she knew what happened there. Bad things. Evil things. Death. She shuddered and turned back to Gina.

"I fell..."

"Oh! We must clean you up!"

Emma hated how over protective her friends were. She knew she had a problem, or how Gina called it, a "mental issue". She knew all her friends knew about it. Somehow, that just made the friendships seem fake. Like the only reason they were friends was just pity.

She hated her problem. She would often have hallucinations, such as the time she saw a mermaid at the swimming pool or how she claimed to see death. It made people scared of her.

She returned to her work after Gina patched her up. She had just sorted through shelf J when the librarian had showed up.

The librarian always gave her the shivers, though there was no way to place what about her was scary. Perhaps it was her cold yet beautiful glare, or perhaps it was her tendency to show up unexpectedly.

"Hello, Emma," she said kindly. Too kindly. She didn't like it. "Do you believe in fairy tales?"

Emma glanced up, surprised. She wasn't allowed to read fairy tales, as it would induce more of her hallucinations. "No," she replied shortly.

The librarian's eyes twinkled as she handed Emma a large, dusty book. "Read this. It's brilliant."
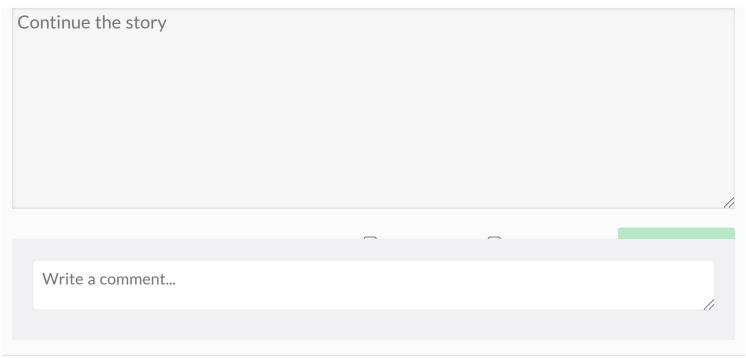
Emma didn't like where this was going, but she was always curious of what lay beyond the boundaries of fairy tales. She gladly accepted the book, unaware of its power.

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